

MERCK PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING DIVISION

DIVISION OF MERCK & CO., INC.

WEST POINT, PENNSYLVANIA 19486

ORIGINAL

CERTIFIED MAIL

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

November 8, 1991

Mr. Kai Shum (3HW64)
Environmental Engineer
RCRA Corrective Action
United States Environmental
Protection Agency, Region III
841 Chestnut Building
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Ms. Humane Zia
Remedial Project Manager
United States Environmental
Protection Agency, Region III
841 Chestnut Building
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Mr. Shum and Ms. Zia:

RE: **GROUNDWATER UPDATE**
DOCKET NO. RCRA-III-002TH

On March 19, 1991, we met with you to present our understanding of the groundwater conditions at our site. Since then we have constructed and monitored a new monitoring well in our groundwater program. This well conclusively demonstrates that Merck is outside the recharge area for the NPWA well field and Merck could not have contributed to contamination of the well field. Attached please find a technical memo describing test results from this new monitoring well. Additionally, a more complete discussion of the groundwater conditions at our site has been provided in the March 19 meeting summary that is also enclosed with the memo.

We are addressing our groundwater problem comprehensively under RCRA. With this effort, we believe that we have defined the extent of our groundwater problem, and have our problem under control. Significant actions to remediate have included vacuum extraction systems, groundwater treatment, and hydraulic barrier control pumping. Additionally, our program to provide municipal water supply hook ups for all homeowners within 2500 feet of our site has assured that neighboring residents are not threatened by the groundwater problem. We are hopeful and think it appropriate that the remediation stage of our groundwater program be performed pursuant to RCRA Correction Action Program.

We would like to meet jointly with the EPA Superfund and EPA RCRA groups to present the most current understanding of the groundwater conditions at our West Point facility. I have recently spoken to both of you regarding a possible meeting and will provide additional details once arrangements can be set.

Please contact me at (215) 661-3367 should you have any further questions about this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Lielke

Mark A. Lielke
Work Plan Coordinator
Site Environmental Services

MAL393/gs
Attachment
FEDEX (08NOV91)
P292079878 (Shum), P292079879 (Zia)
cc/enc: Kathy Davies(P292079880)
Joel Hennessy(P292079881)
Tim Malloy(P292079882)

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B. Wallington
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About

Mr. Honnery (P292079891)
 David L. Zia and Shon 21NOV91

ORIGINAL

TO: EPA Region III
FROM: Merck & Co., Inc.
DATE: November 25, 1991
SUBJECT: Hydrogeologic Cross Sections for June 1991,
Meeting to Present Groundwater Update,
Docket No. RCRA-III-002TH

Attached are six figures which illustrate the groundwater conditions in June 1991 in the area of Merck's West Point, Pennsylvania, site. Characteristics of groundwater level and flow, and patterns of chloroform and TCE contamination are presented in map and cross section views.

Data from new monitoring well N04 confirm that Merck has not contributed to the TCE contamination of NPWA wells L-22 and L-17:

- A groundwater divide separates Merck from NPWA wells L-22 and L-17, and
- The chloroform plume in groundwater beneath the Merck site does not extend to the vicinity of NPWA wells L-22 and L-17.